

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-8, 11, and 13, in accordance with the following:

B¹

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A membership management ~~method~~ system in a membership management system, comprising:

- at least one ~~user terminal~~ apparatus connected via a network;
- a database held by each of a plurality of service provision sites; and
- a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein when a user makes an application for a registration of membership information to one of the service provision sites by using said ~~user terminal~~ apparatus, the one of the service provision sites receiving the application registers at least a part of the membership information into the database held by the one of the service provision sites, and when the membership information is not registered in a database held by the integrated membership management center, the integrated membership management center registers the membership information into the database held by the integrated membership management center, where the membership information comprises a user ID and a password and the integrated membership management center allows the user to use a same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A membership management system, comprising:

- at least one ~~user terminal~~ apparatus connected via a network;
- a database held by each of a plurality of service provision sites; and
- a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein each service provision site comprises:
 - membership registration guidance display ~~means for~~ unit requesting a user to register membership information;
 - ~~means for~~ a guide unit guiding the user to obtain from the at least one ~~user terminal~~ apparatus the membership information that has been input from the ~~user terminal~~ apparatus based on a guidance of the membership registration guidance display

~~means~~unit;

~~means for a~~ request unit requesting the integrated membership management center to register the membership information;

~~means for a~~ unit obtaining from the integrated membership management center, the information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration; and

~~means for a~~ post unit posting to the at least one ~~user terminal~~apparatus a user ID and a password, which are authenticated by the integrated membership management center allowing the user to use the same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites.

B1 3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The membership management system according to claim 2, wherein the integrated membership management center comprises:

~~means for a~~ search unit searching for a record that coincides with user information when receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information;

~~means for a~~ unit preparing the user ID and the password and adding the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search;

~~means for an~~ adder adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services from the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search; and

~~means for a~~ post unit posting the user ID and the password authenticated by the integrated membership management center to the service provision site.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The membership management system according to claim 2, wherein the membership registration guidance display ~~means~~unit requests the user to input items of membership information for the integrated membership management center even if the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated membership management center that is connected to a plurality of service provision sites and to at least one ~~user terminal~~apparatus via a network, the integrated membership management center comprising:

searching ~~means~~unit searching and determining whether a record exists that coincides

with new membership information that a user has used when the user has accessed a service provision site from ~~a user terminal~~ an apparatus, wherein the membership information comprises a user ID and a password; and

a database ~~for~~ registering the new membership information when the searching unit determines that the new membership information is not registered in the database allowing a user to use the same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The integrated membership management center according to claim 5, further comprising:

~~means for~~ a unit searching for a record that coincides with user information when receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information;

a unit ~~means for~~ preparing a user ID and a password and adding the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search;

~~means for~~ an adder adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services from the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search; and

~~means for~~ a unit posting the user ID and the password to the service provision site.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision site, comprising:

membership registration guidance display ~~means for~~ a unit requesting a user to register membership information;

~~means for~~ a unit guiding the user to obtain from ~~a user terminal~~ an apparatus the membership information that has been input from the ~~user terminal~~ apparatus based on a guidance of the membership registration guidance display ~~means~~ unit;

~~means for~~ a unit requesting an integrated membership management center to register the membership information;

~~means for~~ a unit obtaining from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has been registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration; and

~~means for~~ a unit posting to the ~~user terminal~~ apparatus a user ID and a password authenticated by the integrated membership management center, wherein the membership registration guidance display ~~means~~ unit requests the user to input items of membership

information for the integrated membership management center even if the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site and allows the user to use the same user ID and password with another service provision site.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A membership management system, comprising:

~~a user terminal~~ an apparatus connected via a network;

a database held by each service provision sites; and

a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein each service provision site comprises:

BS
a membership registration guidance display requesting a user to register membership information;

a guiding unit guiding the user to obtain from the ~~user terminal~~ apparatus the membership information that has been input from the ~~user terminal~~ apparatus based on a guidance of the membership registration guidance display;

a first unit requesting the integrated membership management center to register the membership information;

a second unit obtaining from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration; and

a posting unit posting to the ~~user terminal~~ apparatus a user ID and a password, which are authenticated by the integrated membership management center, wherein the membership management system allows the user to use the same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The membership management system according to claim 8, wherein the integrated membership management center comprises:

a third unit searching for a record that coincides with user information when receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information;

a fourth unit preparing the user ID and the password and adding the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search;

a fifth unit adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services

from the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search; and

a sixth unit posting the user ID and the password authenticated by the integrated membership management center to the service provision site.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The membership management system according to claim 8, wherein the membership registration guidance display requests the user to input items of membership information for the integrated membership management center even if the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated membership management center that is connected to a plurality of service provision sites and to at least one ~~user terminal~~apparatus via a network, the integrated membership management center comprising:

a search unit searching and determining whether a record exists that coincides with new membership information that a user has used when the user has accessed a service provision site from a ~~user terminal~~an apparatus, wherein the membership information comprises a user ID and a password; and

a database registering the new membership information when the searching unit determines that the new membership information is not registered in the database, wherein the integrated membership management center allows the user to use the same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The integrated membership management center according to claim 11, further comprising:

a third unit searching for a record that coincides with user information when receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information;

a fourth unit preparing the user ID and the password and adding the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search;

a fifth unit adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services from the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search; and

a sixth unit posting the user ID and the password to the service provision site.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision site, comprising:
a membership registration guidance display requesting a user to register membership information;

a guiding unit guiding the user to obtain from ~~a user terminal~~ an apparatus the membership information that has been input from the ~~user terminal~~ apparatus based on a guidance of the membership registration guidance display;

a first unit requesting an integrated membership management center to register the membership information;

B1 a second unit obtaining from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has been registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration; and

a third unit posting to the ~~user terminal~~ apparatus a user ID and a password authenticated by the integrated membership management center, wherein the membership registration guidance display requests the user to input items of membership information for the integrated membership management center even if the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site, allowing the user to use the same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites.
